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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 30, 2004

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for December 30, 2004. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

MILLIYET / RADIKAL / EVRENSEL / OZGUR GUNDEM / SABAH: The Mardin Kiziltepe Prosecutor finally prepared the long-awaited statement of charges against the four (Turkish National Police) special operations team members who are allegedly connected to the killing of Ugur and Ahmet Kaymaz. The prosecutor brought a lawsuit at the Criminal Court of Law on the grounds that four police officers "transgressed the rules of necessary self-defence and caused the incidence of the two killings whose actual perpetrator cannot be traced or discovered". The police officers may face up to 12 years of imprisonment according to Radikal. (Note: Ozgur Gundem and Evrensel report the term as 6 years. Sabah and Milliyet says that three of the four police officers may face up to 12 years and the other officer may face up to 6 years. End Note.) According to the statement, the information gained and the statement of a witness said that Ahmet Kaymaz's house would be used by PKK, which was in the eve of organizing an activity against the security forces at a nearby police station. On the day of the incident, Ahmet Kaymaz went out of the house with his son, only to distract the police watching the house and allow Nusret Bali to run away through the backdoor. The statement further says that Ugur and Ahmet Kaymaz started the conflict and the Kalachnikov gun found beside Ugur Kaymaz's body fired 8 bullets and the gun found beside Ahmet Kaymaz fired 5 bullets. This statement contradicts with the report of the Human Rights Commission of the Turkish Parliament reading that there were no traces of armed conflict in the scene. The statement demanded that a charge be brought against Makbule Kaymaz, the wife of Ahmet Kaymaz, for 'being a member and a leader of the terrorist organisation'. If the Criminal Court accepts this appeal, Makbule Kaymaz may face up to 24 years of imprisonment.

EVRENSEL / CUMHURİYET: The headmen of Hozat, Tunceli, complained that they were threatened and insulted by Colonel Namik Dursun, the Tunceli Jandarma Regiment Commander. A delegation from the Human Rights Association interviewed the village headmen to inquire about the matter. The village headmen stated that if the headmen did not divulge (unspecified) information until January 1st, the (Jandarma) Commander would allegedly going to give much trouble to villages and/or its headmen. Human Rights Association states that people are being seriously oppressed and they are constantly being terrorized in Tunceli. The delegation later visited Tunceli subgovernor and the Governor as well.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Ozgur Gundem narrates the story of Vahdettin Yalcin who was (allegedly) deliberately executed (note: it says by rifle. End Note.) along with his two friends by the Bolu Commando Brigade on November 7, 1993. He saved his life because he pretended to have died after being thrown into the river with his two dead friends. Four bullets wounded him. According to Yalcin's narration, after his recuperation, he was forced to change his statement, which had brought a charge against the execution's perpetrator.

OZGUR GUNDEM / EVRENSEL: Bulent Tas, President of the Tunceli Bar Association filed a complaint with the Tunceli Prosecutor about the Bolu Commando Brigade. Bulent Tas stated that, apart from the mysterious disappearings of seven people in Mirik (Tunceli province), a total of sixteen people disappeared in 1994 in Tunceli. Bulent Tas said that the allegations against Bolu Commando Brigade must be investigated.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The incidences of people disappearing after being taken into custody date back to 1980s and increase in intensity during the period from 1993 to 1994. After the mass grave in Kulp, Diyarbakir had been discovered, people started to apply to the Human Rights Association, and, currently, there are applications for 843 people who disappeared during that period of time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. VAKIT / EKSPRES / BOLGE / TURKIYE / HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): The EU has accepted the application of the Adana Chamber of Commerce for a project named "Integrated Foreign Trade and Exchange Course" that is worth 80.000 euros. The project aims to

educate and enhance the qualifications of foreign trade and foreign exchange employees to make up for the shortfall of people in this sector.

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